## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application before this amendment. No claim was amended in this paper, and no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by a Japanese Patent Reference JP 10-268356 (Takebayashi). The "et al." suffix, which may appear after a reference name, is omitted in this paper.

Referring to FIG. 5, Applicant respectfully points to the active area 51 and the common line 52 formed outside the active area 51. The contact holes 53 are also formed outside the active area. Referring to FIG. 6, the claimed supporting column (such as FIG. 6, 44) would also be formed outside the active area but on the upper substrate 40. The claimed common line here (such as FIG. 5, 52) should not be confused with either a counter electrode or a pixel electrode formed inside the active area and together usually define a pixel.

Takebayashi does not teach, inter alia, the above disclosed and claimed invention: --a contact part provided for a common line disposed at **a peripheral region outside an active area** of a lower substrate--.

Takebayashi in the Abstract and drawings teaches that the "pillar-like spacer 25" of laminated red, green, and blue color layers is covered with a "counter electrode 26" to electrically connect to the "auxiliary capacitance electrode 23" that is "**arranged between the adjacent pixel electrodes** 21" (also see FIG. 3).

Therefore, Takebayashi's pillar-like spacer 25 and the corresponding contact hole 22b (see FIG. 1) are **inside** the active area and fails to anticipate Claim 1.

In addition, the present invention teaches forming a contact hole in the insulating layer on the common bus line, and electrically connecting the ITO formed on the supporting column with the common bus line through the contact hole, thereby applying a uniform common voltage to the entire upper substrate. Whereas, the cited reference discloses forming an auxiliary capacitance electrode in each pixel in the form of island, and connecting a counter electrode formed on the upper substrate with the auxiliary capacitance electrode, thereby applying a common voltage applied to the counter electrode to the auxiliary capacitance electrode. Therefore, the present invention is different in technical constitution with the cited reference.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-5, pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited reference. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicits an indication of allowable subject matter. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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